



Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

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Social Investment News

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Love One Another

Bishop Braxton, presently Bishop of Lake Charles, LA, gave a homily last year on the myriad problems inherent in racism using the wedding feast at Cana and Mary's simple yet radical instruction to the stewards – ***Do what Jesus tells you to do.***

The Bishop cited some specific examples of ordinary people who did extraordinary things when they did what Jesus told them to do – Francis and Clare of Assisi, Martin de Porres, Charles Lwanga, Catherine Drexel, Dorothy Day, John XXIII, Archbishop Romero, Mother Teresa, S. Thea Bowman, Martin Luther King, and others.

In New Community we hear Jesus say, "Love God with your whole being and love your neighbor as yourself," "Do unto others..." "If you aspire to greatness, you must serve the needs of all. For the last shall be first and the first shall be last." His words are a mandate. We must hear the cry of the poor.

Largely because racism still exists, Newark harbors the poor, the poorly educated, the unemployed, the drug-addicted, frightened immigrants, fragile seniors, at-risk teens, and a host of other marginalized residents.

NCC has stretched its resources to the limit to provide opportunities to change lives and life styles. A partial list of our efforts on behalf of inner city residents includes:

Education

Two Charter Schools, LPN School of Nursing, **Workforce Development** with classes for GED, numerous life and technical skills; **Youth Automotive Training Center** especially for at-risk older teens.

Unemployed

Gateway-to-Work Program ► for comprehensive assessment, job readiness training, workplace literacy based curriculum, individualized case management involvement computerized, Adult Basic Education Software-Aztec, job readiness evaluation, support services.

Immigrants

Hispanic Development ► ESL Classes, temporary protective status; para-legal services, citizenship classes, computer literacy.

Seniors

Nursing Home, Adult Day Care ► in four sections of Newark, Meals-on-Wheels, Social Services, and advocacy for rights of seniors.

Moving Memorial for 9/11

At 10:00 a.m. on September 11, 2002 St. Rose of Lima School children walked silently and solemnly into St. Rose Church. They sat. As the American Flag followed up the middle aisle, the children stood and just as silently and solemnly they proffered a head inclination.

The children remained standing while the flag was placed reverently in a place of honor. They recited the Pledge of Allegiance loudly and proudly. Over 300 children then sat and listened attentively to the reading, Romans 12:9-21, a veritable treatise on respect, prayer, equal kindness, live at peace with all, conquer evil with good.

A song and a poem followed, **Precious Lord** and **God Bless America, God Bless Me**, respectively. A former student gave his reflections on "Experiencing 9/11" but concentrated more on dealing with life thereafter.

The organ then introduced "Dona Nobis Pacem." Every Child, including kindergarten, sang this beautiful hymn. The Principal then spoke from the speech of Pope John Paul on **The Ten Commandments for Peace**. It was a teaching moment at its best.

The closing hymn, **God Bless America**, evoked myriad memories and left those in attendance emotionally replete as the children walked out of the Church silently and solemnly.

Social Investment

. . . faith is not a substitute for facts, and good intentions are no substitute for effective strategy. . .

Archbishop Robert Mahoney, Los Angeles, 5/16/89

We sincerely believe that we have come this far by faith. However, there has been a great deal of strategy involved in the building of NCC.

- ▶ We have worked with the people of Newark.
- ▶ We have recognized the power of concerted community action.
- ▶ We have been helped by or scaled the obstacles placed by City, State, and/or federal governments
- ▶ We have courted private industry and money lending institutions
- ▶ We have sought grants for day care, homeless, housing, teen parents, health care center, literacy, training in numerous areas, etc.
- ▶ We have always included employment for our urban poor in our plan of action.

The fact is – especially in this time of financial angst – that we need your help.

If you are going to invest anywhere, please make it NCC – at 8%



New Community's SOUL

Stars of Urban Life (SOUL) is a multi-cultural youth performance troupe which educates and entertains audiences with issue-oriented theater reflecting the urban experience. The aim of the group is to restore and to enhance community pride and values through the life-changing power of the creative process. SOUL'S repertory pieces include *Sala Cinderella*, *Black America Speaks Too*, *Footprints on a Concrete Path*, *Patchwork Quilt of Light*, and *Kwanzaa*.

Being a part of SOUL has meant more to the teen members than simply enjoying dancing and singing. The following reflections of the former troupe members attest to the strong positive influence of SOUL on their lives:

Shannon Norman, an NCC resident, is a freshman at PA Temple University.

... I look forward to Temple University, PA with a major in Secondary Education and minor in Theatre ... I want to make a difference in the lives of youth as SOUL has done for me... SOUL is where I was continually reminded to excel—the reason I am a well rounded person with the drive to be even better...

Christyal Anderson, a Newark resident, is a Rutgers University freshman.

... Being a part of SOUL helped to enhance my confidence, communication and leadership skills ... I found a talent in acting that I never knew existed... Pride in my surroundings grew as I came to appreciate my culture and life more. Through SOUL I learned that when you work well with others better things come out in the end... I look forward to majoring in education with a minor in theatre... I am ready to go out into the world to represent what I was taught.

Ma'Isha Kirkland, is attending college and working part-time.

...It is safe to say that SOUL has saved my life...being a member takes hard work, commitment, and tons of responsibility. I had to make sure my chores were done, maintain a good report card, learn my lines, master dance routines, and keep myself out of trouble and I was only eleven when I joined ...SOUL has given me a connection to my ancestry. From "Sala Cinderella" I learned of many traditions that originated in Africa. "Patchworks" taught me the side of slavery that you don't learn in History class. "Black America Speaks" showed me the journey of the middle passage, the trials of a slave and emancipated black person. "Footprints on a Concrete Path" helped me to understand that we are still struggling for freedom...SOUL has given me love, love for myself and others...SOUL is a life changing experience, a blessing in itself.

Arthur Wilson

Mr. Wilson was born and reared in Tampa, Florida. During his high school years as well as for two years in Gibbs Junior College in Tampa/St. Pete, Arthur flipped burgers and washed dishes to support his school needs. He chose to come North to get a good job which would pay for his further education. Arthur also wanted to find his father who had separated from his mother when Art was two years old. He found him and was persuaded to remain in New Jersey to complete his studies and to get to know his father.

Arthur Wilson's academic degrees were awarded by Kean College - BA in Elementary Education and Seton Hall University - MA in Education Administration and Supervision.

Art began his teaching career at Peshine Avenue School in Newark. In 1971 he became the Title I Project Coordinator/Vice Principal at Queen of Angels School in Newark. Here he was introduced to theater for which he has an abiding love. Art confessed that he played a **"dancing crap shooter"** in Guys and Dolls, one of the many musicals presented by the parish for the Catholic high school tuition fund. Parishioners like Mary Lou Williams wrote and performed Jazz Concerts in the Country for audiences that included seniors and prisoners. Art was involved. His love of theater has increased and multiplied over the years.

Among the many other things which kept Arthur a busy man was his involvement with the Newark Archdiocese Ecumenical and Planning Commissions, the Newark Archdiocesan Permanent Deaconate Program, and membership/President of the first Coop in Newark, Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative. Art also led a Cub Scout group which he considered "three years of combat duty."

In 1975 Mr. Wilson became the principal of St. Rose of Lima School as well as a board member of New Community Corporation. By 1979, he was the NCC Board President, a position he still holds.

To the delight of about 800 customers Art and a long time close friend and colleague established the Elmart Theater Service to the NY Theater District. The cost varies as does ticket price, bus service, and light refreshment. They go to Broadway, off-Broadway, and Apollo in Harlem. Mr. Wilson previews all shows for their suitability. Those who enjoy music, drama, and humor are thrilled with the convenience of the Elmart Theater Service.

The theater is Mr. Wilson's joy but his pride and joy is an eight-year-old third grade honor student. Sabrina is an adored and adoring granddaughter.

According to his students, Mr. Wilson has a favorite saying, "There are only two ways of doing something. The right way or the wrong way. Make your choice." NCC and St. Rose School are the fortunate recipients of Arthur Wilson's right choice.

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